

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
School of Medicine  
Stanford University  
Palo Alto, California

Dear Josh:

I am sorry that it was not possible for you to be present at the last meeting of the Board since I believe the discussion was both informative and productive. You and Kaffer Martline, together with your colleagues, did a fine planning job, so necessary for the Board to meet its obligations in the biological aspects of space research. As you probably know, the Board endorsed these plans and I personally am most anxious to see the sub-committees organized and convened as soon as possible.

The purpose of this letter is formally to request you to continue to serve as Chairman of Sub-Committee 11a on Exobiology and to assume additional responsibilities as Vice-Chairman of Committee 11 on Biological Research. It is most important that the Board be in a position to provide the new Office of Life Sciences at NASA with scientific advice of the highest order. The Space Science Board has a responsibility not only to the Academy and to the scientific community but to the nation to ensure that the biological program now being developed at NASA is sound and scientifically competent. I feel personally that this is our responsibility.

I hope that it will be possible for you to accept this additional assignment and look forward to seeing you at the next Board meeting in June.

With every good wish,

Sincerely yours,

L. V. Berkner, Chairman  
Space Science Board

cc: Dr. Martline, Mr. Peavey,  
Dr. Odishaw